

English – Year 7

Curriculum Intent

In Year 7, English introduces students to the subject as both a creative and analytical discipline. Students develop their ability to read thoughtfully, write accurately and communicate ideas clearly, while exploring how texts reflect the human condition. Across the year, the curriculum is carefully sequenced to move students from imaginative description and genre conventions towards increasingly confident analysis and argument, strengthening core reading, writing, speaking and grammar skills that prepare students for more sustained study of whole texts in Year 8.

What Students Will Study Across the Year

Autumn Term – Introduction to English through Gothic Writing

Students begin Year 7 by exploring what English is and why it matters, using Gothic literature as a shared starting point. They read a range of short Gothic texts and extracts, exploring atmosphere, setting and genre conventions, and develop descriptive writing through careful crafting of vocabulary, imagery and sentence structure. Alongside this, students revisit key grammar and punctuation knowledge to strengthen accuracy and control in their writing.

Spring Term – Power and Language: *Animal Farm*

Building on their introduction to analytical reading, students study *Animal Farm* to explore ideas of power, manipulation and responsibility. They examine how writers shape meaning through symbolism, allegory and writer's intention, and practise shaping arguments through structured analytical and discursive paragraphs. This unit strengthens students' ability to use evidence precisely and explain ideas clearly in writing.

Summer Term – Love and Literary Heritage: *Romeo and Juliet* and Poetry

Students finish the year by exploring the theme of love through *Romeo and Juliet* and a selection of poetry. They develop confidence reading Shakespeare as a performance text, explore tragic conventions and relationships, and deepen their ability to analyse figurative language and poetic methods. Students also begin to compare texts, helping them prepare for more demanding whole-text study and more sustained essay writing in Year 8.

Assessment and Progression

Students are assessed through knowledge quizzes, continuous written assessment and analytical paragraph writing. Assessment focuses on reading comprehension, descriptive and analytical writing, spoken discussion and accurate use of spelling, punctuation and grammar. By the end of Year 7, students have developed a strong foundation in craft, analysis and discussion, preparing them for Year 8's focus on voice, viewpoint and more extended essay responses.